Amendments to the Specifications:

Please replace the last paragraph on page 3, lines 26 and 27 with the following:

Examples of salts of these organic [[-]] and/or inorganic acids are alkali metal, alkaline metal or ammonium salts thereof. These organic [[-]] or inorganic acids and/or salts thereof may be used alone or in combination.

Please add the following new paragraph after line 9, page 4.

Sometimes it is advantageous to use a combination of solvents to achieve a clear fountain solution. This will depend on the other ingredients in the fountain solution as a general rule the more polar an ingredient is the more polar is the glycol/glycol derivative e.g., ethylene glycol, propylene glycol, glycerin and the like. When less polar ingredients are present, then solvents like hexamethylene glycol, dipropylene propyl glycol ether and the like is favored. If both polar and less polar ingredients are in the same fountain solution formulation, then a combination of the appropriate solvents would be preferred.

Please replace line 21, page 4 with the following amended line:

Some suitable nonionic surfactants having the requisite HLB of about 2 to about ~~10~~ 12 include those selected from the group consisting of block polymers of propylene oxide and ethylene oxide; block copolymers of propylene oxide and ethylene oxide and ethylene diamine; C_1-C_{20} ethoxylate alcohols, amides fatty acid esters, alkanol amides, glycol esters, ethoxylated alkyl phenols, ethoxylated acetylenic glycols, ethoxylated acetylenic carbinols, silicone glycols, silicone alkylene oxide copolymers, trisubstituted ureas, and diesters of dicarboxylic acids.

Please replace line 4, page 5 with the following amended line:

Many other anionic surfactants are available and could be useful if they have the required HLB range of about 2 to about ~~10~~ 12.

Please add the following new paragraph after line 5, page 5.

Years of experience in surfactant technology has taught the combination of surfactants giving better results than when only one surfactant is used. The hydrophilic - lipophilic balance (HLB) rule states that the combination of surfactants is additive based on the weight of each surfactant. For example, if surfactant A is 50 wt. % of the total usage with a HLB of 5, and surfactant B is 50 wt. % with a HLB of 10, then the resulting surfactant combination has an effective HLB of 7.5, which would be acceptable for our invention.

Please add the following to line 3 in the first paragraph on page 7.

Typical pH's of acid fountain solutions are usually between 2.2 and 4.8 [[-]], but can be formulated with a pH as high as about 5.5 as a limit.

Please replace line 7, page 7 with the following amended line:

- Inorganic [[/]] and/or organic salt - 0.2 to ~~2.5~~ 5.0 wt. % a phosphate, monohydrogen phosphate, dihydrogen phosphate, metaphosphate, pyrophosphate, acetate, citrate, malate and the like.

Please replace line 10, page 7 with the following amended line:

- Buffering acid - 0.1. 0.3 to ~~1.5~~ 4.0 wt. % of a weak acid like phosphoric, acetic, malic, citric and the like.

Please replace line 18, page 7 with the following amended line:

~~Desinsitising~~ Desensitizing water-soluble polymer - 0.5 to 10 wt. % consisting of gum Arabic, carboxymethyl cellulose, hydroxy propyl cellulose, dextrins or other polysaccharides, or mixtures thereof.

Please replace line 21, line 7 with the following amended line:

- Glycols - ~~1.5~~ 1.0 to 10.0 wt. % of a glycol, glycol ether or glycol ester.

Please replace line 2, page 8 with the following amended line:

Obviously, the acid components are either eliminated or drastically reduced to achieve a more neutral (between 6.5 to about 7.5) ~~ph~~ pH range.

Please add the following amended sentence to the end of paragraph one, line 4 page 8:

Generally, the use of water-soluble polymers for the purpose of desensitizing the plate are not used in neutral fountain solutions, but their use could be optional. If desired to use a desensitizer polymer than about 0.05 to about 5.00 wt. % is added to the fountain solution.